

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 553
By Bragg

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Fred Travis on the occasion of his
retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those who in their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fred Travis is one such outstanding person who has served with honor and distinction for nearly 50 years as a reporter at Tennessee's capitol; and

WHEREAS, a former war correspondent, Fred Travis first came to the hill when Jim McCord occupied the governor's residence; he has covered eight governors and five constitutional conventions; and

WHEREAS, a Murfreesboro native, Fred began his storied journalism career at his hometown newspaper, the Rutherford Courier, and joined the Chattanooga Times in 1940; and

WHEREAS, he became a combat correspondent for the Marine Corps during World War II, covering the ceremonial surrendering of swords from Japanese forces guarding Tokyo Bay, this just three days before General Douglas MacArthur presided over Imperial Japan's surrender on the USS Missouri; and

WHEREAS, following his wartime service, Fred returned to his beloved Tennessee and became the Times' Nashville correspondent, typing in the day's news and sending it to the paper by Western Union; and

WHEREAS, he covered the fall of the “Boss Crump” political machine in Shelby County and the federal racketeering trial of Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa; and

WHEREAS, Fred retired from the Chattanooga Times in 1980, but to this day remains a force on Capitol Hill with his columns on state government. Respected and admired by his many peers, he is affectionately called the dean of the capitol hill press corps; and

WHEREAS, Nashville Banner editor Eddie Jones calls Fred the “greatest archival source in history of Tennessee state government and state political leaders, possessing a vast store of knowledge and historical perspective”; and

WHEREAS, further described by Jones as “a strong advocate for political reporters”, Fred Travis “was always the model of ethics”; and

WHEREAS, Fred Travis exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Travis has been an active and vital part of the community and his profession for many years, always quick to offer a kind word or advice to others; and

WHEREAS, Fred’s adroit qualities include the uncommon ability to motivate others to fully realize their potential, perhaps the most valuable of all skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Mr. Fred Travis our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Fred Travis with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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